

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USICA

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR JODY POWELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: CARTER-SCHMIDT RELATIONSHIP

REF: BONN 12831

1. KLAUS BOELLING, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S CONFIDANT, HEAD OF THE BPA AND FRG SPOKESMAN, DELIVERED A BLAST AT DER SPIEGEL BEFORE GOING OFF ON LEAVE. THE CAUSE WAS AN ARTICLE IN SPIEGEL AT THE TIME OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO THE FRG WHICH IMPLIED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR CONTINUED TO BE POOR. THE BLAST IS IN FORM OF AN OPEN LETTER WHICH APPEARS IN THE ISSUE OF JULY 24 AND IS RUN UNDER A PHOTO OF THE CARTERS AND SCHMIDTS GREETING EACH OTHER WARMLY. SUCH A LETTER FROM A SO HIGHLY PLACED FRG OFFICIAL IS UNUSUAL AND IN BOELLING'S CASE TO OUR BEST KNOWLEDGE THE FIRST BOELLING HAD HAD APPEAR ON THE SUBJECT OF US-FRG RELATIONS. THE TEXT IS GIVEN IN TRANSLATION BELOW.

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2. "ACCORDING TO THE DRAMATURGY OF YOUR PERIODICAL, AS WAS SO FRANKLY DESCRIBED BY RUDOLF AUGSTEIN (SPIEGEL'S EDITOR), YOUR PERIODICAL CANNOT RENOUNCE THRILLER EFFECTS EVEN IN SPIEGEL STORIES TRYING TO DESCRIBE POLITICAL FACTS IN A CLINICALLY CLEAN WAY. THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A WHIZZING OF STEEL SPLINTERS. THUS, IN YOUR

CARTER-SCHMIDT STORY YOU DESCRIBE THE CHANCELLOR AND HIS STAFF AS BEING 'EXTREMELY EXASPERATED' BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S REJECTING HELMUT SCHMIDT'S INVITATION TO HIS HAMBURG HOME.

3. "BELIEVE AN EYE WITNESS: THE CHANCELLOR ACCEPTED CARTER'S STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO COME BUT HAD TO CONSULT WITH HIS STAFF ON URGENT OFFICIAL BUSINESS, WITH THE SAME EQUANIMITY WHICH ALSO SPIEGEL EDITORS WHO HAVE KNOWN HIM FOR QUITE SOME TIME WILL HAVE REPEATEDLY NOTED.

4. "THE 'PERSONS CLOSE TO THE CHANCELLOR' WHO WERE 'EMBITTERED' BY THE CHANCELLOR'S HAVING BEEN OFFERED NO MORE THAN FOUR SEATS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE FOR ITS FLIGHT TO BERLIN, RESEMBLE THE SNOW MAN IN THE HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS: THEY ARE PHANTOMS.

5. "BUT IT WAS INDEED WITH SOME EXASPERATION THAT THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT'S SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRST TIME LEARNED -- THROUGH WHAT WAS SAID IN THE SPEGEL -- THAT SUCH ADJECTIVES AS 'FOOLISH,' 'INFANTILE', 'ARROGANT' AND 'AMATEURISH' WERE ALLEGEDLY USED IN CHARACTERIZING THE PRESIDENT'S REJECTION OF A JOINT FLIGHT WITH THE CHANCELLOR TO FRANKFURT.

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6. "MY OWN RESPECT FOR YOUR MAGAZINE ON ACCOUNT OF THE NUMEROUS AND IMPRESSIVE SAMPLES OF 'INVESTIGATING' JOURNALISM -- A TYPE STILL RARE IN THIS COUNTRY -- CANNOT PREVENT ME FROM DETECTING IN SOME OF YOUR STORIES A CONFLICT LIBIDO WHICH YOU OCCASIONALLY SATISFY SOMEWHAT CARELESSLY. KLAUS BOELLING."
KLIEFORTH

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